

APPENDIX B
Serial No.: 09/463,474
Claims As Pending After Entry Of The Instant Amendment

1. (Four times amended) A conjugate for distinguishing cancerous or inflamed tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent moiety and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent moiety and the carrier are bonded to one another via an ester bond, an amide bond or a Schiff base, and wherein said carrier is a protein.
2. (Twice amended) The conjugate of claim 13, wherein the serum albumin is a human serum albumin.
4. (Thrice amended) A conjugate for distinguishing cancerous or inflamed tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent moiety and a plurality of carriers, wherein said fluorescent moiety and said carriers are bonded to one another via an ester bond, an amide bond or a Schiff base, and wherein said carriers are proteins.
5. (Reiterated) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety comprises an acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group or an aldehyde group.
6. (Reiterated) The conjugate of claim 15, wherein the excitation wavelength is 630 to 850 nm.
7. (Reiterated) The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the excitation wavelength is 320 to 450 nm.
8. (Three times amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety comprises a porphyrin, a chlorine, a bacteriochlorine, a chlorophyll, a phthalocyanine, a carboxy cinnamic acid, a carboxyfluorescein, an acridic acid, a coumaric acid, or an indocyanine green.
9. (Thrice amended) A conjugate for distinguishing cancerous or inflamed tissue from healthy tissue comprising a plurality of fluorescent moieties and a carrier, wherein said

fluorescent moieties and said carrier are bonded to one another via an ester bond, an amide bond or a Schiff base, and wherein said carrier is a protein.

10. (Thrice amended) A method of producing the conjugate of claim 1, comprising:

(a) reacting a fluorescent compound with a carrier, wherein at least one activated functional group of said fluorescent compound reacts with -OH or =NH groups of said carrier, thereby forming an amide bond, ester bond or Schiff base.

13. (Reiterated) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the protein is a serum albumin.

15. (Reiterated) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety has an excitation wavelength of 630 nm or greater.

16. (Reiterated) A composition comprising the conjugate of claim 1 and an acceptable carrier or excipient.

18. (Reiterated) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety has an excitation wavelength of 450 nm or less.